

National Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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CONVENTION PLANNING

The Executive Board, meeting at Mrs. Wyatt's home in New York on December 27, by dint of concentrated attention transferred more than the usual number of problems to the decision ranks. The management of the Conference is secure in this exchange of prudent opinions from all sections, made possible only by unselfish expenditure of time and money.

Convention plans were of first concern. Worthwhile program suggestions were advanced, and a budget for the Convention was set up. As a result of the meeting we can enclose a registration blank for your use. (Please note: NCTC has no control over Room charges (and Board fees, too, at CU), which will be paid over in their entirety to the University and the hotel.) Room reservations will be made in order of receipt of your registration. Please use the enclosed sheet in sending your reservation, and help us in record-keeping by sending your check for the Convention separate from any other payment being made. You will hear much more about the Convention and its program, but this will be the only general mailing of reservation blanks. Please do not mislay your copy. The safest guard against its loss is to return it promptly with your check to the Service Bureau. More blanks will be sent for additional reservations if you need them later.

Sister Mary Honora, O.P., in accepting the post of Publicity Chairman, vacated by the death of Courtenay Savage and the resignation of Margaret Heslin Carroll, drafted plans for pre-Convention and general magazine publicity. Sister will also be responsible for displays at the Convention. Miss Helen Feeney will handle newspaper releases between now and June 20.

Practical revisions of the constitution have been undertaken by the Executive Board with the intention of presenting these in writing to members prior to the business meeting of the Convention to eliminate time delays on voting there.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed, and its candidates will be announced in the May Calendar. (Constitutionally, a like number of nominations may be made from the floor.)

Father Nagle accepted the Chairmanship of the Play Listing Committee in place of Father Walsh, and a final pre-Convention meeting of the Committee was scheduled at Washington June 19.

It was recommended that a 1947 Bulletin be printed and urged that members submit three or four glossies for selection by the Editor and uniform cut-making.

The current Executive Board will meet finally at Washington at 10 a.m., June 20.

WEST CENTRAL REGION MEETS

On Feb. 7 and 8 the West Central Region under the chairmanship of Elvira Sheetz Bujarski will meet with the Wichita Diocesan Unit. Members located in Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas are urged to accept the invitation extended by Cathedral High School, Wichita, host to the meeting. A questionnaire has been sent to all members in the area with the aim of blocking out future regional plans which may be developed at the National Convention in June.

Tentative Program includes a dinner Feb. 7 for diocesan delegates and Conference officers at Sacred Heart College, Mrs. Bujarski hostess; production of MURDER IN A NUNNERY by Cathedral High School at 8 p.m. On Feb. 8, General Session 10 a.m., Rev. G. B. Hartke, O.P., principal speaker; Round Table Discussions: Radio, College Theatre, High School Dramatics, Grade School Dramatics, at 11 a.m.; Luncheon 12:15 p.m., Broadview Hotel; 2 p.m. Report of Round Table Chairmen; 2:30 p.m. General Session, Father Hartke, leader; 4 p.m. Demonstrations of Make-up and Lighting; 6 p.m. Dinner.

SIX THEATRICAL FELLOWSHIPS

Stanford University announces the establishment of six \$1500 fellowships in the Dept. of Speech and Drama, four for actors and two for theatre technicians, costumers or designers -- intelligent young theatre workers who have been trained in college or universities and are definitely trying to establish themselves in the professional theatre. Each will demand a minimum residence of three quarters; successful applicants are expected to begin work Feb. 1, 1947, when they will be appointed to staff as Junior Artists in Residence.

All applicants must be under 27, must have graduated (except in case of technical fellowships) from a college or university prior to Jan. 1945, and must have spent intervening two years actively in theatre work. Applicants should send immediately to Prof. H. C. Heffner, Speech & Drama Dept., Stanford Univ., California, full particulars of training and experience, references, snapshot and statement of age, height and weight.

COLLEGE FESTIVAL AT MUNDELEIN

All colleges within and near the Central Region have been invited to participate in a one-act play festival, sponsored by Mundelein College, Chicago, and the Central Region of NCTC, on Feb. 7-8-9. Walter Kerr of Catholic University will serve as critic judge.

A very complete set of Festival rules has been compiled, including floor plan and light plot. Deadlines: for play scripts, Dec. 20; hotel reservations - Hotel Stevens from 3 p.m. Feb. 6 to 3 p.m. Feb. 9 to be sent to T. M. Cuny, 6428 Newgard Ave., Chicago 26 - Dec. 30; light plot, properties, floor plans, and application for rehearsal period, Jan. 13; exhibit material (collections of programs, designs, photographs, models, etc. - participation optional), Jan. 20. Entrance fee for each group will be \$10 payable in advance; individual registration fee will be \$3, for which each registered person will receive a ticket for all performances and for luncheon Sunday noon.

Each entry will receive the judge's rating, and gold and silver medals will be given to those individuals who are rated Superior and Excellent.

Early entrants: Loras College Players will present Father Donohue's adaptation of OEDIPUS REX and Mundelein will repeat THE SUMMONS OF SARIEL for the first time since the 1935 premiere, using the version written by Magdalene Kessie for the college.

MUSICALLY

THE PLAY OF ROBIN AND MARION, earliest folk comedy opera, by Adam de la Halle - translated by John Murray Gibbon and reconstructed and harmonized by Jean Beck, Professor at U of Pennsylvania and Curtis Institute - is recommended for ambitious producers in search of imaginative material. Formerly published by C. C. Birchard, it is now held by G. Schirmer, Inc., who grant performance rights with purchase of 10 copies (\$1.25 ea.) for one performance; five additional copies must be purchased for each repeat performance.

A copy of the CU musical LIKELY STORY will be available in the library soon. THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY GOES, 1946 Revue at CU, has not yet been released because of pending offers to several of its authors.

Covington - BABES IN TOYLAND will call for about 100 members of Catholic Theatre Guild of Northern Kentucky. Conference members in the Cincinnati area are invited cordially to attend, Jan. 24 and 26, in Covington Public Library Auditorium.

Immaculata, Pa. - Sister Mary Donatus's CATHERINE OF ARAGON will have its first performance Jan. 16, Immaculata College.

Manchester, Ct. - Melodrama, ON THE BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT, fills the stage of The Challoner Club, Jan. 16 and 17.

New York - At Blackfriars' 57 St. Theatre Victoria Kuhn's IF IN THE GREEN WOOD opens Jan. 16 for three weeks.

St. Louis, Mo. - For members only, Playhouse Club presents Alice Gerstenberg's OVERTONES at St. Louis Univ., Jan. 15.

Salt Lake City - Campus Players of St. Mary of the Wasatch will present CAREER ANGEL Jan. 14 and 15 for their major production of the season.

So. Woodstock, Ct. - Annhurst College celebrates Epiphany with a performance of Laurence Housman's BETHLEHEM.

Washington - MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING opens Jan. 17 at Catholic University Theatre for three weeks.

BROADWAY COMMENTS

By Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

BEGGAR'S HOLIDAY - Except for some lyrics sung by Alfred Drake this seemed to me a nightmare of bawdy jazz. Nothing of Gay's operetta is left but half the name.

BURLESQUE - A revival of Arthur Hopkins' hit of 1927, this time with Bert Lahr. It really doesn't seem worth the effort.

CHRISTOPHER BLAKE - The most important new play of the season, certainly so from a sociological standpoint for it deals with the crushing situation of a child whose parents are getting a divorce. Superbly acted by Richard Tyler with a strong supporting cast and able direction.

YEARS AGO - The story of Ruth Gordon's own dramatic debut dominated by Frederic March and Florence Eldridge as her mother and father. This happy family is very comforting to the playgoer who has seen CHRISTOPHER BLAKE.

WONDERFUL JOURNEY - is the same script known among the little theatres as HEAVEN CAN WAIT and on the screen as HERE COMES MR. JORDAN. Amusing production, but without a big name it fails to carry Broadway.

An audience of seven hundred followed the two all day sessions of the Chicago Play Festival Nov. 29 and 30, and only the capacity limit of St. Ignatius Hall cut down the attendance at the Banquet Dec. 1. Seventeen plays were produced the first two days; the five schools awarded Superior rating drew for the three places on the Sunday afternoon program to repeat their plays.

The combined forces of Loyola Academy and Miss Therese Marie Ouny, Regional Chairman of NCTC, found no difficulty with so ambitious a program, and to Father Walker, S.J., Honorary Chairman (but very active in his interest), Mr. Bamberger, General Chairman, Mr. Haas, S.J., Moderator, George Ryan, Student Chairman, and Miss Ouny we give our heartiest congratulations and warmest thanks for the invaluable experience they have added to the Conference record. Arrangements, program (including even the official scoring sheet for the critic judge), scholarship awards for acting -- all will build better Catholic theatre in the future.

A short meeting of directors was held after the Sunday Banquet and another was called Dec. 15 for the purpose of recording promptly suggestions for future improvement in the Festival. Directors expressed the desire of meeting monthly in order to exchange ideas.

An important contribution to the Festival was made by the scholarship contributing colleges; namely, Mundelein (won by Geraldine Carroll of Loretto Academy, Woodlawn); College of St. Francis (won by Dorothy Carroll of Academy of Our Lady, Longwood); Rosary College (won by Sally Hughes, Academy of Our Lady, Longwood); Fordham University (won by Frank Apel, Loyola Academy); Loyola University (won by Anthony Mackus of St. Ignatius H.S.); Loras College (won by John Smith of St. Ignatius H.S.).

Professor G. Harrison Wright of Kent State University, Ohio, the Critic-Judge awarded Superior Rating to the following schools: Academy of Our Lady (Longwood), Alvernia High School, Loretto Academy (Woodlawn), St. Ignatius High School, St. Michael's Central High School. In addition second and third acting honors went to students from St. Michael's H.S., Mt. Carmel H.S., St. Ignatius H.S., and Notre Dame High School.

The Mask and Foil Club of Chestnut Hill College presented the premiere of JOYFUL MYSTERY by Rev. John Louis Bonn S.J., Dec. 15. In the five episodes, "The Cavern and The Chaos," "Beasts and Growing Things," "The Workers and The Rulers," "The Angels and The Heavenly Creatures," and "The Man and God," Miriam Davenport Gow, director, used men's and women's choruses.

In the radio appeals of the National Cancer Fund Drive opening this month ONE OUT OF EIGHT, a scene written by Helen Feeney, Mid-Atlantic Regional Chairman, for the living newspaper show at Fordham University last summer will be heard.

Variety announces an article by Rev. G. V. Hartke, O.P., on University Theatre to appear in its anniversary issue January 8.

Nap Sanchez, President of Catholic Theatre of Detroit, went to Pittsburgh for COME MARCHING HOME when all strikes, the coal shortage ban, and other obstacles were finally overcome by Catholic Theatre Guild of Pittsburgh.

With the production actually accomplished, the President, Technical Director, and Lab Theatre Chairman are resigning, but it is not a question of "never again." Joe Rozmarin will write; Gerry McKelvey is returning to Carnegie Tech to complete his Art course, and Patricia Rice is leaving for NY. Helen Flanagan, Play Reading Chairman, is yet hard at work finding plays for the remainder of the Guild's season.

The Nov. 24 production of FATHER MALACHY'S MIRACLE was welcomed heartily by St. Peter's Dramatic Club audiences. Father Schliesmann reports that Sister M. Honora, O.P., offered valuable aid out of her past experience; if we remember correctly, Sister Honora was once similarly grateful to Father Dinneen, S.J.

Two Conference groups have scheduled lectures this month on their season subscriptions: Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P., the speaker at Dubuque Jan. 19 for Loras Players, has chosen "Mother Goose" as his topic; Loyola Community Theatre, Chicago, will hear William Hazlett Upson the ergophobe.

Springfield Little Theatre Players, Inc. have a regular broadcasting hour each week, "Know Your College."

In the 7th Annual Diocesan Drama Finals of the Springfield CYO Contest on Sunday Nov. 24, NO HERO, staged by Jerseyville CYO was given the Bishop Griffin Trophy in the Senior Division. The play was originally written in French. Father Heinen found it in Holland and made his English translation from the Dutch version. Only three men; set in 2d Century. THE VALIANT, produced by St. Boniface Dramatic Club, Quincy, was given the DCCW Trophy, 2d prize. In the Junior Division the K of C Trophy went to LET'S MAKE UP by Esther E. Olson (Jacksonville CYO); Diocesan CYO Trophy to STRANGE ROAD by John M. Houston (St. Aloysius CYO); Springfield CYO Trophy to St. Patrick CYO Decatur, for ANTIC SPRING. Mary K. Bruemmer, Executive Secretary, reports a large and interested audience encouraged the competitors.

Catholic Theatre Guild of Richmond presented two one-acts, THE BISHOP'S CANDLESTICKS and DUST OF THE ROAD, at the annual Christmas Party Dec. 30. Father O'Kane directed both plays.

Sister Mary Philip, C.S.C., of St. Mary of the Wasatch, writes of the enthusiasm of first, second and third graders for creative dramatics: "Herod waxes most eloquent and goes so far as to thump his chest in declaring he is king of the Jews. He also, very nonchalantly, asks the Wise Men to 'have a bite' before they leave."

PRINCESS WING TOY, a Maryknoll Mission Play, helped Queen's Troubadours of Sacred Heart Academy, Stamford, Conn., to raise funds for Missions on Nov. 26-27. Sister Marie Michael coached two complete casts who gave two performances each. For Christmas the Schola Cantorum of the Academy joined forces with the Troubadours.

Radio Play Shop of Fairfield College Preparatory School on Nov. 25 began its series of student-written scripts, BUILDERS OF BRIDGEPORT, over WICC.

Graduates of Holy Family High School, New Bedford, recently formed a new drama group. Three performances of THE BARRETT'S OF WIMPOLE STREET launched activities.

Mary Layne arranged and directed the choric adaptation of A WOMAN WRAPPED IN SILENCE at School of Brown County Ursulines, which presented four parts of Father Lynch's poem with speaking and chanting choirs and dance movement.

